

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (Original) A method for transmitting a message to a recipient, the recipient is associated with an alias identifier, the alias identifier is associated with at least one permission criteria, the alias identifier is further associated with at least one communication device, comprising:

- selecting a user alias;
- verifying that the selected alias is for a registered recipient;
- compiling a message for the recipient;
- checking the message length of the complied message;
- checking the permission criteria associated with the alias;
- sending the message to a recipient device associated with the selected alias; and
- notifying the sender of the receipt of the message.

Claim 12 (Original) A method for transmitting a message to a recipient, the recipient associated with at least one identifier, the identifier is associated with at least one communication device, comprising:

- receiving a message;
- receiving a recipient identifier for said message, the recipient alias associated with at least one communication device;
- verifying that the recipient identifier is available to the system;
- verifying that the sender has permission to send a message to the identifier by referring to the permission associated with the identifier; and
- transmitting the message to at least one communication device associated with the identifier.

Claim 13 (Original) The method of Claim 12, further comprising:

- retrieving a maximum message length for a communication device associated with the identifier;
- determining the message length of the received message;

comparing the message length of the received message to the maximum message length; and

modifying the transmission of the message when the message length of the received message exceeds the maximum message length.

Claim 14 (Original) The method of Claim 13, wherein said modifying comprises sending the message in more than one transmission.

Claim 15 (Original) The method of Claim 13, wherein said modifying comprises sending a concatenated message.

Claim 16 (Original) The method of Claim 15, wherein said modifying further comprises adding a header to the message.

Claim 17 (Original) The method of Claim 10, further comprising converting a text message to a voice message when the received message is a text message and the recipient device is an audio device.

Claim 18 (Original) The method of Claim 10, further comprising converting a voice message to a text message when the received message is a voice message and the recipient device is a text device.

Claim 19 (Original) The method of Claim 10, wherein at least one device associated with the selected alias is associated with a permission criteria, further comprising applying the permission criteria for the device when a message is to be transmitted to the device.

Claim 20 (Original) The method of Claim 17, wherein said permission criteria refers to the message sending device.

Claim 21 (Original) The method of Claim 17, wherein said permission criteria refers to the message sender.

Claim 22 (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said identifier is associated with at least one alias, said receiving comprising receiving a recipient alias, the recipient alias associated with said communication device via said unique identifier.

Claims 23-28 (Cancelled)


Claim 29 (Original) A method for facilitating the transmission of a message to a user of a message system, the message system employing aliases to define device sets associated with users of the message system, the message system transmitting a message to user devices associated with an alias when the alias is the intended recipient of the message, the method comprising:

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Amendment dated February 11, 2004

Responsive to Office Action dated August 12, 1903

providing service providers access to database records, a database record includes at least a user device identifier and a corresponding user alias; making a communication link available for transmitting messages from the service provider to the message system; receiving messages from the service provider, the messages including a user alias as the intended recipient of the message; forwarding the message to the users of the message system.

 Claims 30-31 (Cancelled)

Claim 32 (Original) A method for generating a valid alias, comprising:

storing attributes, the attributes corresponding to user entered information; receiving user information for a number of attributes from said stored attributes; and generating an alias by employing said user information, wherein said number of attributes are selected so as to result in a valid alias generated.



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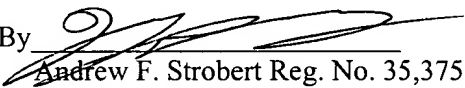
The Office Action issued a restriction of the application under 35 U.S.C. § 121.
Applicant hereby elects Group II of the inventions enumerated by the Office Action.

Applicant has responded to the restriction requirement by electing Group II. The application is now in condition for examination.

If the Examiner wishes to direct any questions concerning this application to the undersigned Applicant's representative, please call the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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